



# Regional Report East of England

2010

Research  
Centre

Fact Sheet

- The East of England is the UK's fourth largest region by population, having increased almost 5% from 2003 to 2008.
- Over 20% of the population are of pensionable age, which is higher than the UK average.
- The East of England produces £20.4bn of exports, or 9% of total UK exports.
- At £19,083, regional output per head is 93% of the UK average.

## East of England

The East of England covers an area of 19,109 sq km, stretching from Thurrock in the south to North Norfolk in the north east and Bedfordshire and Dacorum in the west.

## Population trends

The East of England's population increased almost 5% from 2003 to 2008, this is ahead of the UK's population which increased just over 3% over the same period. In 2008, the East of England had a population of 5.7 million, which is equivalent to 9% of the total population of the UK. The East of England ranks fourth out of all the regions in terms of population.

Within the East of England, Stevenage experienced the smallest growth from 2003 to 2008 at just 0.1%, whilst Colchester's population has increased by 13% and Forest Heath's population has grown by almost 12%. The region has a population density of 395 people per sq km which is 56% above the UK average of 253 people per sq km. Luton is the most densely populated area in the region, with 4,423 people per sq km.

## Age profiles

In 2008, just over 20% of the population were of pensionable age, which is higher than the UK average of 19%. The region has the same proportion of under 5s as the UK average, at 6%. North Norfolk

has the 'oldest' population, with just over 32% of pensionable age, while Luton has the largest percentage of under 5s at just above 8%. Over 19% of residents in the East of England are under 16, slightly higher than the UK average. Across the region, fractionally over 60% of the population are of working age, slightly lower than the UK average.

## Households

There were just under 2.4 million households in the East of England in 2006, and there has been an increase of almost 17% since the early 1990s. Of these households, 73% are owner occupied which is more than the UK average of 70%, while a less than average 8% are rented from the local authority. Average weekly earnings were £509 in the period up to April 2009, which is 4% above the UK average of £489. Average weekly household spending amounted to £493 in the East of England which is more than the UK average of £460. The Department for Communities and Local Government estimates that the average house price in the region was £214,075 at the end of 2009, implying that the East of England is the third most expensive region in the UK. The average house price for the UK as a whole was £200,307.

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## Regional Income

Regional output is commonly measured in terms of gross value added (GVA). Total GVA for the UK increased almost 6% in 2007 to £1,246bn. The East of England region produced output worth £108bn, which is equivalent to almost 9% of national output, ranking it fourth out of the 12 UK regions. The region's output has increased by 74% since 1997, which is above the national average growth of 69% and is the second largest increase recorded among the 12 regions. Within the East of England, Peterborough has grown fastest, rising almost 91%, while Thurrock has reported the smallest gain, of just under 46%. East Anglia is responsible for over 40% of the region's total output.

Regional output can be compared on a per head basis by dividing GVA by the region's population. In 2007 the national average for GVA per head was £20,430, while that for the East of England region was £19,083, which is just over 93% of the UK average. The East of England's GVA per head has increased over 62% since 1997, which is slower than the UK's average growth in GVA per head of 61%. Across the region, GVA per head ranges from just £15,717 in Thurrock to £26,968 in Peterborough. Over the last 10 years the largest increase in GVA per head was recorded in Peterborough, at almost 83%, but Thurrock recorded the lowest growth, at just under 32%.

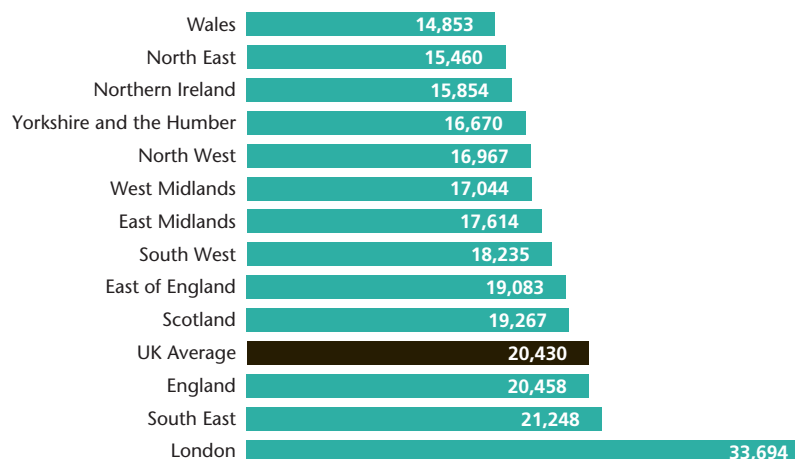
## Major Industries

The largest contributor to the area's output is real estate, renting and business services, which produces 25% of output.

## Major Regional Industries (% of output)



## Regional output per head in 2007 (£)



This is followed by manufacturing and wholesale & retail, which both account for a further 13%. Together these three industries produce over half of regional output. Construction ranks higher in terms of regional importance than the UK average, while financial intermediation accounts for 6% of total output, which is lower than the national average of 9%.

## Exports

Exports from the East of England amounted to £20.4bn in 2009, which is equivalent to 9% of all UK exports. Machinery and transport equipment exports accounted for 38% of the region's total. The other main sector is chemicals and related products which accounted for 24%. At present 64% of the East of England's exports go to Europe, 15% of exports go to North America and 12% of exports go to Asia.

## Workforce

The East of England's population ranks first in terms of economic activity in the UK. Economic activity measures the proportion of the population either in work or actively seeking work. Current levels show that economic activity, at almost 83%, is higher than the UK average of 79%.

At the end of 2009, 2.8 million people were employed within the East of England. Of these people almost 83% are employed within the service sector, with the majority, 51%, in distribution, transport, finance and business services. A further 32% work within public administration, education and health. Manufacturing jobs account for 10% of the workforce, which is fractionally above the UK average while construction jobs account for a lower proportion than the national average, at 5%.

At the end of 2009, the East of England had an unemployment rate of 6.5% compared to the UK average of 7.8%. In the East of England, 4% of people in employment have a second job, slightly higher than the UK average. Over 5% of women have a second job compared to 3% of men.

Sources: ONS Regional Trends 2010 Edition, ONS Labour Market Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)